

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
March 14, 2002

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2002, in the Board Room, York Hall, by Chairman Donald E. Wiggins.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd.

Also in attendance was James O. McReynolds, County Administrator.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2003 BUDGET

Mr. McReynolds made a brief presentation on projected revenues and expenditures contained in the proposed Fiscal Year 2003 Budget.

Chairman Wiggins called to order a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2003 Budget which was duly advertised as required by law.

Ms. Nayda Pophal, Executive Director of Housing Partnerships, appeared to thank the Board for its support and to ask for its continued support for FY2003. She stated it had been a tough year, and there has been a great need in housing. In York County so far in the first six months, Housing Partnerships has completed nine repairs and utilized 245 York County volunteers for a total of over 1,000 hours equaling approximately \$153,000 in volunteer labor. She noted that one of the most successful projects this year has been an association with the County, the Farmers Home Administration, the volunteers, and Housing Partnerships to build a house in the upper county for an elderly disabled lady. Ms. Pophal stated that by voting to continue the Housing Partnerships funding will allow them to continue serving the housing needs of York County.

Ms. Amanda Hayes, Planner for the Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board (CCCJB), indicated the Board's budget request for next year is just slightly higher than the current year at \$20,811. The slight increase of \$1,000 is due to the inability of the CCCJB to absorb increasing costs of the Planner position. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for its continued support and Don Wiggins for all his efforts and contributions to the CCCJB during his tenure. Ms. Hayes stated she looked forward to working with Mr. Shepperd in the future.

Ms. Deborah Elliott, representing the Foster Grandparents Program, indicated the program was celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. She explained how the program worked for seniors 60 years of age and older and the services they provide. The program currently has 97 volunteers, and the plan is to enroll 10-15 more by the end of April from York County. Ms. Elliott asked the Board to approve the requested \$2,800 for the Foster Grandparents Program.

Mr. John Lochstampfor, Jr., 236 Robanna Drive, asked the Board to reduce the real estate tax rate from \$.86 to \$.80 per \$100 of evaluation. He stated revenues from property taxes increased 2 percent in FY2002, yet the proposed increase in FY2003 is 9.7 percent because of the reassessment. Lowering the tax rate to \$.80 would still provide the County with 2 percent of increased revenues over FY2002, and property owners will have some relief from the high assessments. Mr. Lochstampfor questioned the fairness of the assessment process, indicating his assessment was increased by \$7,000 because of the view, and his view has not changed since 1970. He stated a 9.7 percent increase is totally absurd, and now is the time to eliminate the fat in the school and County budgets.

Mr. Bill Harper, representing the American Legion Post 31, asked the Board of Supervisors to join with other Peninsula municipalities in supporting the "Wall That Heals," a ½-scale model of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., which will be traveling to this area May 2 through May 5. He asked that the County provide financial support and adopt a resolution declaring May 2-5, 2002, as Vietnam Veterans Days. Mr. Harper explained how the viewing of the model would work while it was on display. He indicated there was a budget of \$60,000 for the project, and the Daily Press and Cox Cable have just donated \$40,000 in advertising.

Ms. Martha McCartney, 109 Quaker Meeting House Road, representing the Heritage Humane Society, updated the Board on what has been done during 2001 at the Society. Construction was completed on the isolation unit, and the addition conforms with the latest in State standards, which allows the Society to sequester unhealthy animals. She indicated the Society is open seven days a week now to better serve the public. She noted that the Society was asking for more funding this year due to the operating costs of the new isolation unit, insurance, and utilities. She stated humane education was being provided to the elementary school children in the Bruton District, and the spay/neuter program was being expanded for low income people. Ms. McCartney also noted that the Society had commissioned a feasibility study for the construction of a larger facility.

There being no one else present who wished to speak regarding the subject budget, Chairman Wiggins closed the public hearing.

PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR 2002 TAX RATES

Mr. McReynolds made a brief presentation explaining the purpose of proposed Ordinance No. 02-3 which would set the tax rates for Calendar Year 2002. He noted that adoption of the tax rates and the proposed budget was scheduled for April 2.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the tax rate for mobile homes and the property the mobile homes occupy.

Chairman Wiggins then called to order a public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 02-3 that is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE TAX LEVIES UPON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, UPON MACHINERY AND TOOLS, UPON MOBILE HOMES, AND UPON REAL ESTATE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2002, AND TO PRORATE TAXES ON MOBILE HOMES

Mr. John Lochstampfor, Jr., 236 Robanna Drive, stated that 17 percent of York County's population were senior citizens, many of whom have lived in the County for 30+ years. He stated he

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felt these people have paid their dues, and not reducing the tax rate is imposing a real burden on senior citizens. Most of them live on fixed incomes, and there are many projects on-going in the County that could be cut. Mr. Lochstampfor asked the Board to reduce the proposed tax rate to be fair to the real estate owners, and he would be happy if the Board reduced the rate to something less than \$.80.

There being no one else present who wished to speak regarding the subject ordinance, Chairman Wiggins closed the public hearing.

Meeting Adjourned. At 7:37 p.m. Mrs. Noll moved that the meeting be adjourned sine die.

On roll call, the vote was:

Yea:	(5)	Zaremba, Noll, Burgett, Shepperd, Wiggins
Nay:	(0)	

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Donald E. Wiggins, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors